

PLURAL

Recent paintings and digital images

Willa Van Nostrand

Ben Sisto

The Gallery at City Hall

25 Dorrance Street, Providence, Rhode Island

May 18 – August 15, 2023

Reception May 18, 2023 from 4–6 PM

About the Show:

The word *plural*, rooted in the Latin *pluralis*, refers to a person or thing's status as belonging to more than one; belonging to many. We also describe the fractional as plural—between zero and one, there exists an undefined, potentially infinite many. Willa Van Nostrand and Ben Sisto are each artists who, in different ways, are investigating this space—the meanings of authenticity and belonging within the context of infinity. Less about what plural is exactly; more what it feels like.

Willa Van Nostrand's recent paintings evoke the visceral plurality of brushstroke, gesture and the associative meanings of each work. Is it a praying mantis? A butterfly? A palm tree? Or perhaps, a mental scan of everything you've ever experienced. The answers, she prefers to leave up to the viewer.

Ben Sisto's *September, Rhode Island* uses generative AI tools to produce images from text-based prompts, drawing on the technical language of photography, natural science, and with loose reference to science fiction. Over the course of a year, a total of 576 images are being created and will eventually be dedicated as public domain.

Thanks

The artists wish to thank The Providence Department of Art, Culture + Tourism (ACT), Micah Salkind, Charlotte Abotsi, and Paris Fernandez for their time and assistance with this opportunity. Additional thanks to all workers and visitors to this building for sharing space.

About the Artists:

Willa Van Nostrand (b. 1987) Willa Van Nostrand is an interdisciplinary artist, curator and mixologist working in Providence, Rhode Island. She works across painting, sculpture, performance and taste to engage the associative realm of the viewer's mind. Willa has a BA in Theatre and Visual Art from Sarah Lawrence College and studied intaglio etching at Il Bisonte Printmaking Studio in Florence, Italy. Willa has worked with RISD Museum, Peabody Essex Museum and Light Space Studios in New York. She founded World's Fair Gallery and Little Bitte Artisanal Cocktails, a garden-to-glass cocktail company in 2010. Willa's projects have been featured in Vogue, Victoria Magazine, Art New England, CherryBombe, The Boston Globe and Salad for President. She is a staff writer for edible Rhody and Serious Eats. She lives and works on the Westside of Providence.

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Ben Sisto (b.1980) is an artist and dad living in Providence. He is curator of the *Permanent Collection* series at Paper Nautilus Books, received a Rhode Island Council for the Humanities grant in 2022, and his *Rhode Island QSL Archive* was acquired by the Providence Public Library after being exhibited at AS220 earlier this year. In 2019, a documentary recapping his research on the origins of the song *Who Let the Dogs Out* premiered at SXSW. His personal and work-related projects have been covered by The New York Times, Boston Globe, Fast Company, Vice, Variety, and others.

bensisto.com
ben.sisto@gmail.com.

Notes and Sales:

Title card image: Willa Van Nostrand's *Luna Moth*, gouache on paper, 9" x 12", 2023.

In conjunction with this exhibition, two prints are being editioned by Tiny Showcase. Ben's is available now; Willa's mid-June. Visit tinyshowcase.com.

The artists can be contacted directly with all other purchase inquiries

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Willa Van Nostrand's Work:



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|----|--|----|--|
| 01 | <i>Luna Moth</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 | 08 | <i>Watermelon Slice</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 |
| 02 | <i>Garden Trowel</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 | 09 | <i>Honeysuckle</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 |
| 03 | <i>Leaf</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 | 10 | <i>Baguette</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 |
| 04 | <i>Violet</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 | 11 | <i>Barbecue Fork</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 |
| 05 | <i>Orange Butterfly</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 | 12 | <i>Emmenthaler (Swiss Cheese)</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 |
| 06 | <i>Green Garlic</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 | 13 | <i>Watermelon</i>
gouache on paper, 12"x9", \$125 |
| 07 | <i>Beach Ball,</i>
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125 | | |

Images appear on the following four pages



Luna Moth
gouache on paper, 9"x12"



Garden Trowel
gouache on paper, 9"x12"



Leaf
gouache on paper, 9"x12", \$125



Violet
gouache on paper, 9"x12"

Image Not Available

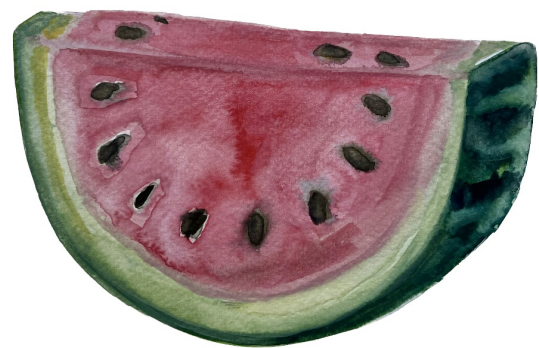
Orange Butterfly
gouache on paper, 9"x12"



Green Garlic
gouache on paper, 9"x12"

Image Not Available

Beach Ball,
gouache on paper, 9"x12"



Watermelon Slice
gouache on paper, 9"x12"

Image Not
Available

Image Not
Available

Honeysuckle
gouache on paper, 9"x12"

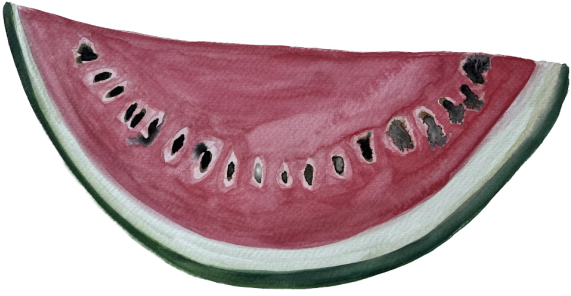
Baguette
gouache on paper, 9"x12"



Barbecue Fork
gouache on paper, 9"x12"



Emmentaler (Swiss Cheese)
gouache on paper, 9"x12"



Watermelon
gouache on paper, 12"x9"

Ben's Work:

September, Rhode Island (City Hall Edition), 2022–2023
Set of 30 archival inkjet prints, each 17" x 11" framed

Prices (with frame):

- (1) Work: \$150
- (2) Works: \$250
- (3) Works: \$300
- (4) Or More: Contact Ben to chat

Images appear on the following four pages

